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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for pub scation wish to have rejected articles returned. they must in all cases and stamps for the purpo e.

The Open Door-What May Shut It. It appears that our State Department has received satisfactory replies from the six powers, namely, Great Britain, France, Germany, Russia, Italy and Japan, from which we requested assurances that the rights secured to the citizens of the United States by treaty with China should remain unimpaired in any parts of the Middle Kingdom which have been, or may be hereefter, leased, or in any other way acquired, by foreign nations. The promise of each of the Governments addressed to enter into a written agreement to the desired effect is conditioned, it is true, upon the notification of the assent of all the others, but, as, doubtless, we shall soon be able to satisfy the prescribed condition, we may look upon the written agreement as an accomplished fact. The concessions made to the United States by the powers concerned in what will be, practically, a septipartite convention, they will be constrained by international comity, if not by treaties containing the "most favored nation" clause, to make also to one another. It follows that the "open door," which, but six months ago, seemed to have vanished from the field of practical politics, has been Government.

From the moment that American commodities are adm tted on equal terms with those of their foreign rivals to the Chinese and France, or which may, perhaps, be one day occupied by Great Britain, Japan or Italy, our State Department has done everything for American exporters which It could be reasonably asked to do. We desire no "sphere of influence" in Asia in the technical sense of the phrase; we would not take part in the dismemberment of China, if we could possibly avoid it. All that we need we shall have gained by the written assurances to which we have rethe co-signatory powers. While thus sehave, at the same time, rendered indidom. China's territorial integrity has been establishment of the principle of the "open

From Russia, France and Germany, which are intensely protectionist countries, and which hitherto have coveted colonies mainly for the purpose of enforcing a protectionist policy therein, we have taken away the strongest motive for any further dismemberment of China. What is the use of additional territorial aggrandizement at the cost of the Pekin Government, if, in the domains thus acthat the Russians, the Germans and the | conducting the war. French might have the pleasure of supportwithin more extensive areas, but what comtherein which they do not already possess? Russia, or Kiao-Chou to Germany, if each to remain an open door?

It may be said that the answer returned by the powers to the request of the United States, although, upon its face, unlimited with respect to time, will prove temporary in fact, and will be retracted from the moment that Russia, or Germany, or France feels itself strong enough in respect of word and reimpose its favorite protectionist policy within its settlements on the Chinese mainland. Before that time arrives, we also shall have naval fortresses in the harbor of Manila and elsewhere in the Philippines, and it will be the fault of our Navy Department and of Congress if we do not also possess a navy adequate to the enforcement of our treaty rights in China, and of fidelity to written agreements on the part of foreign powers.

Jury Trials in Surrogates' Courts.

An earnest attempt will be made, at the change the law in respect to contested will are now always heard and determined in the first instance by the Surrogate alone. If an appeal is taken to the sion may order the principal questions in the case to be tried before a jury at a rogate's Court, to be finally disposed of in accordance with the verdict of the jury.

Under the present procedure there is no such thing as a jury trial in the Surrogate's cus of Erie county, which was passed by the State Senate last year, but failed in the Assembly and is to be presented again to the Legislature this winter. It has strong support among members of the bar in the western part of the State, but will doubt ess be opposed by the Statutory Revision Commissioners at Albany, whose proposed Surrogate's Code is also to be laid before the Legislature, substantially preserving the existing system of trying probate issues before a jury of the

Supreme Court. Surrogate MARCUS has the reputation in Buffalo of being a capable and painstaking Probate Judge; and his arguments in favor of the change which he advocates are not without force. It seems to us, however, that the objections to his plan outweigh any benefits which could result from it.

The change would increase, to a very considerable extent, in the aggregate, the annual expenditure necessary to maintain the court rooms of the Surregate would, in and take charge of them during their de- will continue to be a seiler of American fish, capable of nabbing the Colonel by the

list of the State; and in many of the counties more than one additional officer would be needed.

It is said that the Surrogate, from his knowledge of probate law, possesses jury trial in a will case, but these cannot Justice is not capable of conducting the trial of a will case he is not fit for his place.

they are sent into the Supreme Court, is assigned as a reason why a jury should be called into the Surrogate's Court to try them there. This delay may be obviated by a simple expedient. The law should provide that when questions upon which the probate of a will depends are directed to be tried by a jury in the Supreme Court, such cases should have a preference in that tribunal. This would insure a comparatively speedy determination in all such litigations and would be in accordance with the generally recognized principle that cases involving the administration of es tates should be preferred in order of trial over ordinary controversies. Such is the practice in the Supreme Court itself, when questions in divorce suits, or in lunacy proceedings, are ordered to be tried before a jury. The case goes to the head of the calendar at trial term, and the verdict is sent back to the Judge at special term to guide him in the final determination of the matter, just as the verdict in a will case may be sent from the Supreme Court to the

Surrogate. Trial by jury is a great institution in its proper place; but its proper place is not the Surrogate's Court.

American Financial Interests in the Transvaul War.

There is no doubt that England's war in the Transvaal will last very much longer than was, even a month ago, believed possible, and that the date of its ending is something that no man can foresee. made a reality through the efforts of our | The Boers have strongly fortified their capital city, and even if they are defeated in one great battle after another, they can make a final stand there. Pretoria must needs be taken by slege. Sir MICHAEL ports already occupied by Russia Germany HICKS-BEACH'S statement in the English House of Commons that no provision for continuing the war beyond March 1 would have to be made is now ridiculous. Lord KITCHENER is reported as saying that the war will last for a year.

The question becomes vitally interesting and important to our own people, therefore, how such a prolonged and costly struggle is likely to affect us. We think it is at present the prevailing opinion that all this is going to accrue to our benferred, so long as they are adhered to by efft. It is urged that England must, in order to keep her 200,000 soldiers curing a great boon for American pro- in the field, purchase foodstuffs and arms ducers, manufacturers and traders, we and ammunition from us in enormous quantities; and that the general buying rectly a great boon to the Middle King- orders of the world, already greater than ever before known, will be placed here in in no slight measure safeguarded by our additional quantity, because of the interference with England's manufacturing. It is a well-known fact that there is to be provided for soldiers in actual warfare about twice the quantity of food and clothing needed for them in time of peace. It is said that the inevitable effect of this upon our producing industries will be beneficial. The effect of war anyway, it is argued, is to produce a large immediate expenditure, the burden of which is mainly thrown upon the shoulders of succeeding generations, but analogy and exhibit "than whom" to pub-

manifested to any conspicuous degree mercial advantage could they procure either in England or in the United States. The information from the other side Of what economic value is Talienwan to is that all kinds of business save that directly connected with the fitting out of of those actual or prospective entrepôts is ships and soldiers are suffering depression. This is particularly true of expenditures for luxury. Never before was there deeper gloom in London, both moral and material, than there is to-day. While England's purchases of foodstuffs. mules, &c., in this country on account of the war have so far been considerable. they have not been great. The price of naval fortresses and warships to break its wheat, which, according to all orthodox theories, ought to be the first to advance in the event of war, has risen but very little and is now at a point not very far from the lowest ever known. But the "war rise" in wheat is only to be looked for when a war is threatened which is likely to interrupt the world's production. so that the nations will have to draw upon us for their supplies of grain. Our exports of cotton to England, which that of all our foodstuffs combined, have been less this year than for nearly a decade. This, as has been previously pointed approaching session of the Legislature, to out in THE SUN, is because the English spinners think a big crop of cotton has cases in the Surrogate's Court. Such cases really been gathered and that undue prices for it have been fostered by speculation here. Another reason for small | by a correspondent of the Pall Mall Gazette, exports is, however, that the famine in Supreme Court, the Appellate Divi- India and the Transvaal war have greatly diminished England's power of consumption and the world's need for textile trial term of the Supreme Court. After fabrics. Even if cotton were to fall in such trial, the matter goes back to the Sur- price decidedly, it is certain that England's The boats are laid up. The devils "devour purchases of it this year will be greatly

below the normal. On the other hand, the stringency in the and all shell fish, crabs, lobsters; especially English money market caused by the war the lobsters, just as they do here. The Court itself. Such a trial, however, is pro- bas, so far, resulted in a speculators' panie shore is paved with octopuses. Sixty-eight vided for in a bill framed by Surrogate Mar. here and in a diminished value of all invest- of them have been counted at one time in a ment securities; and so long as the war distance of 200 yards. A fellow five feet lasts and the Transvaal gold mines are seven across the tentacles is looked upon as closed, and business activity everywhere rather undersized. "Some of the suckers keeps so great it is admitted by all, we are as large as a two-shilling piece. They think, that money will remain "tight" the are most loathsome beasts." As well the world over. Up to this time England has Colonel knows. "A nasty people," as old raised the money to carry on the war by Capt. DAMPIER said of the Hodmodods. issuing Treasury bills and by other exped-But it is now certain that within a few weeks, perhaps within a few days, an invasion of London, will they cross the must be made and must be followed by suc- attack Billingsgate Market and SIMPSON'S cessive additions while the war is on. Esti- fish table d'hite, and in due time send back doubt result in an increase of the English that they have been provisioning their national debt by not far from one hundred fleet for a cruise across the Atlantic? And of this continent against the other, when politmillions pounds sterling. This will be against whom is that cruise aimed? Who leal common-sense and patriotism say that it simply the creation of so much new in- is the most ferocious chaser of the Octopus? terest-bearing securities of the highest Whom has the Octopus most reason to hate of criminality. class, which will be sought for by banking and fear? Who has sworn to hang up the Surrogates' Courts in the sixty-one counties houses and investors the world over, claws of the Octopus beside the dried forked of the State. Additional accommodations Other securities of a less desirable characfor jurors would have to be provided, the ter will be sold in order to obtain the money with which to buy the new ones; and lips, but dies into a shudder. In truth, he more traffic. "If the city Administration," many instances, require to be remodelled or American bonds and stocks of an invest- has need of wary walking. The devil of the enlarged, and new court officers would have ment character rarely disturbed will come deep, ruthless, cunning, six feet across the to be appointed to attend upon the juries | into the market. In other words, England | tentacles, is after him. A diabolical, patient

will, of course, be our own people. That England's position in the financial world has been unfavorably affected by this continual recall of her foreign credits, which figure for a long time, but for the Appeal: really be so much superior to those of a last ten years she has only accomplished it Supreme Court Judge as to warrant the by drawing upon her capital deposited in change on this account. If a Supreme Court various parts of the world. For the time being, at least, however, this will not help us. We shal! have to provide the money to The delay in the trial of such cases, when pay for the securities she sells, and this will, of course, add to the financial strin-

> gency already existing. The question is simply, therefore, whether the favorable factors of England's and the world's purchases in this country, due to the war, will more than offset the unfavorable factors of diminished exports of cotton and of the money stringency caused by the stoppage of work in the Transvaal mines and by England's sales of American investment holdings. On which side the balance lies is not so easy to determine as many people seem to think it is.

Tactics and Syntactics.

Even the Hon. WILLIAM LLOYD GARRIson, that belligerent friend of peace, must admit that war has its beneficent side. If it had not been for the trouble in South Africa we should never have received this letter from an esteemed correspondent who is entrenched upon the heights of syntax, from which he shells us thus:

"To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIF: In an editorial of to-day's Sun you use the following sentence in speaking of Gen. BULLER: 'He is no rash novice, but soldier than whom none in the British army has had more constant experience of war.' Now, sir, I nean to take exception to the phrase 'than whom, and I contend that it should have been than who. I n sure you will admit that I am right syntactically. If not, I will prove it.

"I know the reasons usually advanced for the phrase 'than whom,' namely, MILTON's use of it in Paradise Lost,' and usage. But these I do not consider sufficient to justify a violation of syntax. Would you, please, oblige me by stating your reasons for using the phrase? OUT OF TOWN. "DEC. 28."

Our friend puts the cart before the horse. Syntax doesn't make usage, but usage makes syntax. Logic and strict mechanical correctness have to yield to this imperious and whimsical tyrant. Indeed, it is no paradox to say that in its exuberant moments the English language, like the Emperor Sigismund, is above grammar. A hundred grammarians may lay down the law, assist fallen syntax to his feet and frown majestically at usage, but the rascal will have his way.

"Than whom" need not depend upon MILTON for justification. The phrase is unusual, as the friend of syntax admits. But let us turn to the dictionary, which is sort of brother-in-law of the grammar and not disposed to consent to any diminution of the family rights. Enter the Standard Dictionary:

"In abridged clauses after than the objective pronouns me, him, her, etc., are often incorrectly used, showing a tendency to treat than as a preposition. and in the case of than whom the tendency has be come so strong that this form is generally regarded as the accepted usage."

Perhaps this is a little timid. We should say that "than whom" is not merely regarded as, but is, the accepted usage "It is the more usual," says our little friend, the Century Dictionary. Probably most cultivated persons would never think of asking a dictionary about it. They would use it instinctively. The incorrectness is become perfectly correct. Painful precisians may hammer "than who" into the heads of children and deplore false quired, American and British commodities whose benefits are enjoyed by those living lie scorn as an upstart and a blunderer; are to compete on equal terms? It is true at the time, even in the country which is but there it is and there it will remain. It might seem easier and more natural to say So far, it must be admitted that the bene- "than who" than "than whom," but it has humanity the United States interfered, the flag of delight in vexing the souls of the grammarians.

Refusing allegiance to usage, the advocate of syntax can continue to do homage to "than who." Thereby he does his duty as he sees it, and reaps a deserved reward in the consciousness of superiority, which upholds the grammarian in a perverse world. It would be almost a sin for him to justify what he regards as a violation of syntax.

It is comforting to see that the laws of syntax are not silent in the midst of arms; that tactics haven't driven syntactics out.

Col. WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN is now suffering from a complication of issues, all of them fatal. It is almost a sin to add to his troubles, but in the public interest he must not be spared. This is no time for him to be worrying through William J. Bryan League love feasts and Jackson Day banquets and Dollar Dinners. Still less is it a time for him to be breaking camel birds voluntaries on the big, big horn.

We meant to break the news gently, but the awful truth must not be delayed. The Octopus is come! His ravages on this continent everybody knows. Now he has appeared in France and seems likely to desolate the world. The sad story is told who writes from Rivage de Questichou, a watering place on the coast of the Cherbourg promontory. For two or three months that coast has been devastated by octopuses. The fisheries have been ruined. everything," just as they do in this country. Remorselessly they tuck away oysters

And what will they do next? Will they ients which did not involve an addition to continue their revels along the French the permanent funded debt of the country. | coast or, considering favorably the Hon. WILLIAM TELL STEAD'S scheme of a French enormous addition to the permanent debt | Channel, swim boldly up the Thames, mates vary as to the sum required, but, foragers to int reept the whitebait at if the war lasts through the year, it will no Greenwich? Is it not much more probable

tongue of the Money Devil? A satisfied smile flickers over Col. BRYAN'S liberations. This last item alone would securities as she has been ever since 1395; side of the Potomac, of penetrating the would adopt."

River as an antepast to the sweeter morsel, his enemy! The Colonel should be provided with a bodyguard of sworn Octopodicides at once. All Bryanites should be awake to has now been so long going on, is worthy the peril. As ABE SINKENZOOPER, the Silpeculiar qualifications to preside over a of note. She has been making a big ver Singer of the Ozarks, says in his "Last

"Statesmen, seek no more to dope us Give your gibberish pause! Slay the foul and fell Octopus Cut his eldritch claws!

We shall expect to see Col. BRYAN even bitterer in his war against Trusts henceforth. The Octopus has begun a war of criminal aggression against him

The Danish West Indies.

Denmark has long desired to sell her

three little islands in the West Indies, but she wished to drive a good bargain, and our Government thought the price she asked was too high. She did not care to sell at all till St. Thomas lost much of its commercial importance, and then \$7.500 .-000 was asked for that island and St. John, leaving St. Croix out of the question. She is now willing to take \$3,000,000 for the three islands, and they are worth the money. The inhabitants have always been willing to transfer their allegiance to our nation and Denmark is willing to part with the islands because they are of scarcely any advantage to her. She sells to them a little butter, but not much else. For years they have bought in this country most of the food they do not raise and nearly all the coal they sell to steamships, but England sells them most of their cotton goods and since 1896 they have bought much Cardiff coal.

These islands are on the point of the great bend described by the West Indies groups, and are thus most advantageously placed for trade with both divisions of the Antilles, the chain running east and west and that running north and south. In the days of sailing vessels. St. Thomas, with its excellent harbor, was the central point of commercial distribution among the islands. European commodities were landed there to be carried by smaller vessels to other islands. But the era of steam has changed the system of distribution. A general entrepôt is no longer required, for all the islands are now supplied directly by regular lines of steamers. Thus St. Thomas has lost much of the importance it once enjoyed.

St. Thomas and St. John lie on the same submarine plateau from which Puerto Rico rises and are really a prolongation of Puerto Rico to the east, but St. Croix, to the south, is geographically distinct, being separated from them by a deep ocean valley. The islands have felt severely the decadence of the West Indies sugar industry and are not prospering. They are fair and fertile, but are suffering from neglect. Their people speak a little Danish and other European languages and a good deal of English, and there is no reason why, under more favorable conditions, they should not flourish as they did years ago. It will be a blessing to the islands if they come under our flag, and we can make them worth much more to this country than their cost,

To Set Cuba Going.

A circular issued by the Planters and Farmers' Association of Cuba, of which Mr. EVARISTO MONTALVO and FRANCISCO FIG-UERAS are the representatives in the United States, contains this instructive appeal:

We are informed by the ablest authorities that to prohibit franchises in the United States at this time would bring to a standstill all progress, all pro per-You can, therefore, realize how disastrous is the result in Cuba-Cuba just coming forth from centuries of Spanish oppression, just struggling to gain her feet following war and the Weyla regime. To Cuba and Cubans, when in the name of ply to be followed again by despai

American legislation, entered the Cuban field. history the power must rest somewhere to grant franchises. It does so rest for every place on earth but Cuba; and we know of no place where that power can be with greater safety entrusted than in the Executive and the Military Arm of the United

Unless the existing barrier to the granting of franchises for enterprises of all sorts in Cuba is withdrawn by Congress, the prime need of Cuba's development will be long in coming and worry will wait on them. If the Planters and Farmers' Assoclation of Cuba are ready to trust the military arm of the United States, surely this Government could venture safely upon giving the power desired to Gen. Wood.

The wind is rising in Maryland, if we may believe the Hon. HUMPHREY D. WOLFE, who nominated the Hon. LLOYD WILKINSON for Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates. ordinarily amount in value to more than or hunting Mexican lions or performing Vote for WILKINSON, said the melodious WOLFE.

"and your acts will be greeted by a storm of an proval that will start in the now snow-capped mountains of Garrett and Allegany, sweep down through the middle counties, increasing in volume until, reaching the Monumental City, it will become a tornado, which, sweeping across the bay, the into a veritable blizzard by the third day of next April, when this House will stand adjourned."

Mr. Wilkin on, who may not be flattered by praise of his wind-producing powers, was elected Speaker. The snow-capped mountains of Garrett and Allegany begin to shake with storm. On or about April 3, look for the blizzard.

Telephone lines are to be constructed in the mountain counties of Kentucky. In this project there is promise o' mitigation of the horrors of feuds. When the survivors on one side of a feud can employ the telephone in conveying sentiments to survivors on the other side, there will be fewer opportunities for words to lead up to bullets and buckshot.

On Jan. 1 the good citizens of Toronto chose for their Mayor Mr. E. A. MACDONALD. some years ago the editor of a newspaper favoring the annexation of Canada to the United States, on a platform chiefly concerned with the street rallway service and the price of gas. But one plank of the platform was for the building of a ship canal between Lake Huron and Lake Ontario.

Toronto to Nottawasaga Bay, the southern end of Georgian Bay, in the northeastern corner of Lake Huron. It may be that it would be worth Toronto's while, but it smacks altogether to strongly of a scheme for developing the Dominion as an enemy of the United States. Money spent for the fortification of one part all should be one, is folly egregious to the point

We suppose that this canal would lead from

Our esteemed contemporary, the Engineering News, takes issue with the Mayor as to new bridges by advising that the present Brooklyn Bridge be made to accommodate by no other motive than to secure a needed addition to the transit facilities across the East River with the least expenditure, it is safe to say that that is the solution which it

worthy of all care. But the case has another point. The trouble with an enlargement of the present bridge would be that it would make the entrance still more crowded and inconvenient than it is, and further discommode the street traffic of the neighborhood, something to be

very strenuously avoided. On the question between bridge and tunnel, there is a pretty stalwart argument behind the tunnel and, particularly at this moment, behind the tunnel which would bring therefore, could have availed to capture. the railroads of Long Island over to Man-

American occupation of Cuba has not driven native Spanish business men from the island. A member of a firm in Havana tells a correspondent that he knows of no instance of Spaniard abandoning his interests in the islands since Cuba came under United States control. On the contrary, he estimates, nine thousand persons have come from Spain within a year to make their homes in Cuba.

IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The activity noted in the operations at all points in South Africa continues with varying results. For military reasons, Col. Pilcher's mixed force that defeated the Boers at Sunnyside, and subsequently occupied Douglas on the Vaal River, found itself obliged to fall back Dover Farm toward Belmont; and Gen. Babington's cavalry brigade returned to the Modder River camp. The reasons appear to be that the Boers made a demonstration from the east toward Belmont, and a small force tried to rush the Klokfontein station, just below the Modder River. A commando of 600 Boers was also reported approaching Dover Farm, and Gen. Cronje had sent a reenforcement of 400 men in support. The British movement, therefore, has failed substantially and resulted in obliging the farmers who, before it, were allowed by the Boers to remain quietly on their farms to abandon them and take refuge within the British lines. The lines of the Modder River camp are reported to have been advanced a thousand yards covered by the naval guns. Gen. French appears to have got himself into a tight place near Colesberg and was obliged to call for aid from De Aar, which was sent. At last accounts he was still on the

resistance to their further advance. Clear details of the fighting between Molteno and Sterkstroom are wanting, but Gen. Gatacre appears to have succeeded in pushing the Boers back from Cyphergat, at the northern end of the Tylden Pass, through the Stormberg range, to Molteno, which they held at last accounts. Dordrecht has been evacuated by the British, who have retired to Bird's Siding, on the Sterkstroom and Indwe Railway line, where it is crossed by the high road between Dordrecht and Queenstown. At this point they protect the railway and cover Gen. Gatacre's rear against a raid from Dordrecht.

The Boer accounts of matters on the Tugela vary somewhat from the British. They describe the fire of the British naval guns as ineffective and appear to suffer little inconvenience from it. Gen. Lucas Mever has resumed command of the division guarding the Tugela at Colenso, having been absent since the British defeat. A British reconnoissance in the direction of Springfield to the Little Tugela Bridge found the Boers in some force, and returned having lost an officer and five men missing. Reports from the Boer camp at Ladysmith state that the British send out patrols every night who exchange shots with the Boer pickets, that seem to be more alert than before the loss of their guns on Lombard's Kop and Pepworth Hill. The news generally from Natal indicates an early renewal of the attempt by the British to cross the

Tugela to the relief of Ladysmith. A despatch from Pretoria states that the native Chief Linchwe, with 3,000 warriors, who attacked the Boer laagers near Derde Poort on the Marico River, had been defeated and his men dispersed and their villages destroyed. These incidents are the result of the employment of the natives against the Boers by the

British military authorities in Rhodesia. Among the many comments on the war in South Africa, one of the most interesting, and ing a police force and maintaining order ficial of ets of the war have not yet been not been, or else the wicked take a naughty the great Republic of the North brought hope, this one might say one of the most intelligent of they the appreciations of the situation, is from the found that all progress was vetoel by this legisla- per of Herr König, the German military histor an. He says: "The Boers have shown be n crushingly disastrous had it not been that | tactics which may compel all the military powers to revise the tactical instructions for their armies. They have shown how We recognize that at this time in the world's the strategical offensive can be combined with the tactical defensive. This Boer war is amazing so far, but it would certainly be the most amazing war in history if it was the means of teaching their business even to the great strategists of the Continent. Two months ago the Transvaal burgher was the most ignorant man in the world-in the English papers; to-day, in the same quarter, he is about the most finished product, in the way of brains, of

most finished product, in the way of brains, of the nineteenth century."

Point is given to the severity of the last sentences of Herr König's comment, by the way in which the British commanders, after each defeat, have invariably magnified the Boer forces opposed to them. Were their estimates accurate, the Boers should have not less than 75,000 men in the field, a very different figure to that put forward by the war party in England when urging the Government to make war. The chief elements of the Boer successes are their mobility, the skilful use of the repeating rifle, and the able manner in which their leaders, whether native or foreign, have applied the guiding principles of the military art to local circumstances; and the skilful way in which, having wrestet the initiative from the enemy at the start, they have preserved it throughout the campaign.

skilful use of the repeating rifle, and the able manner in which their leaders, whether native or foreign, have applied the guiding principles of the military art to local circumstances; and the skilful way in which, having wrestet the initiative from the enemy at the start, they have preserved it throughout the campaign.

Counting the Cost of the War.

From the St. James Gazette.

In October Sir Michael Hicks-Beach took a somewhat roay view of the prospects of the war. He described the War Office estimates, amounting to £10,000,000. as having been much better drawn up than usual; and the impression he gave the House of Commons was that this sum would go a very long way indeed in paying for the war. His own method of meeting the cost was to ear-mark for war purposes an anticipated surplus on this year's revenue of £3,000,000 and to take power to raise £8,000,000 by Treasury Bills, which would thus leave him with smillion forcontingencies. We are not in the secrets of the Treasury as to the exact amount of money which has actually been expended; but we have no healtation in assuming that, in fact, this extra million and several other extra millions have been by now expended. A short time since we saw it estimated that £14,000,000 had been spent, and we are probably within the mark in accepting that figure. But nobody can now suppose that £15,000,000 vill go even half-way towari the whole cost of this war. Would it not be prudent, at least, to estimated that £14,000,000 and the wood weshall have to find something very near £0,000,000 and to the wood weshall have to find something very near £0,000,000 and does not this make a vast difference, when the questing the results in the region of the sountry."

Consumption Increasing. have to find something very near £50,000.000? And does not this make a vast difference, when the question of how that sum is to be raised has to be dis-

We have not yet taken over the Transvaal Government, and any scheme for recouping ourselves out of the Transvaal revenue is somewhat premature. Are the taxpayers of next year to be saidled then with enormous extra burdens? Is the Income Tax in danger of being raised to a shilling? We hope known. not. But there seems to be only one way of avoid-ing it, and that is by a War Loan. In our opinion, the need for such a Loan ought to be taken promptly into consideration by the Government.

To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: While admit ting the interest of the comparisons of British and Civil War battles, I do not think the right comparisons are drawn. THE SUN says that the British are up against modern tactics, &c., for the first time in fifty years and practically says they are green at the game That's so. Then, why not compare the Mod der River and Tugela affairs with Bull Run and later bring in subsequent battles to rank with those up to Gettysburg, where I was myself. NEW YORK, Jan. 4.

more traffic. "If the city Administration," were not "green" and "raw," but the best and says the Engineering News, "were influenced most seasoned of the regular troops of the British Army, while the Poers are raw volunteers, as were almost wholly the forces on both teers, as were almost wholly the forces on both sides at our Bull Run, yet even at Bull Run the loss before the defeat was 12 per cent. while that of GATACRE. METHUEN and BULLER was less than 8 per cept. in killed and wounded.

"What about the mumps you had last winter?" his wife interrupted. add at least sixty-one officers to the civil and the chief buyers of these securities | muddy Platte, of eating fire in the Chicago | Better facilities for travel across the East | less than 8 per cept. in killed and wounded.

River are needed, to be sure, and sconomy is THE COST OF VICTORY FOR THE BR: TISH.

The Criticisms of a Canadian Correspondent Considered.

To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: On several occasions of late THE SUN has made pointed remarks as to the folly of the British troops in making front attacks on positions in which the enemy were almost in perfect security, positions which no amount of valor, lesson of the war, you have informed your readers, is the extraordinary advantage enjoyed by the defence when occupying positions of their own choosing, duly protected according to the best military methods. On Sunday last, however, you republished an article from the Army and Navy Journal commenting on the smail losses in killed and wounded which

the smail losses in killed and wounded which the British have sustained in the present warnot over 8 per cent on an average of the troops engaged—and stating that "good troops should stand much heavier losses than these without blenching." Editorially The Sun seems fully to endorse this criticism.

Does not everything depend, however, on the effect you are producing on the enemy? If with a loss of 8 per cent, you have inflicted anything like equal loss on the enemy it is certainly too soon to retire from the struggle; but this, as "HE Sun has been most emphatic in stating, has not been the case in these South African battles. Gen, Builer at the Tugela lost overeight hundred men killed and wounded; while The Sun, I see, is disposed to accept the Boer statement that their fotal losses fell short of forty. Such a disposed to accept the British in making the attack; but surely it would scarcely have been desirable to continue so unequal a struggle simply because a certain average proportion of losses to men engaged had not been reached.

a certain average proportion of losses to men engaged had not been reached.

It does not seem to me that THE SUN's justification of the remarks of the Army and Navy Journal is quite consistent with its previous emphatic utterances as to the fatal errors of the British commanders. W. D. LE SUEUR.

OTTAWA, Jun. 2. OITAWA, Jan. 2.

The contradiction, as it seems to Mr. Le Sueur's mind, does not exist in fact. The tactical and strategic policy of assaulting protected positions of the Boers is criticisable as bad, as wasteful, but once it was adopted it was not put to a fair trial of its full possibilities by the British : or, at least, they gave up the attempt after suffering only a small percentage of loss vi as compared with those often endured in war With the enormous advantage the British have throughout their vast empire, in money and in defensive, being unable to occupy the town. all the resources of war, they can well afford The Boer accounts speak of the British to stand losses ten times as great as those which attacks as having been repulsed, and apwould eventually exhaust the Boers, with parently they mean to make a stubborn their limited military resources. They could keep on hammering away at the enemy, and even if they disabled few in the protected positions in each engagement, as compared with their own losses, they would finally de stroy both his defensive and offensive power by the constant at rition. The cost would be terrible, but until the strategy of the campaign is radically changed it must be paid or the British military reputation will suffer grievously meanwhile. Moreover, England feels that it is fighting in South Africa for a terrible stake, even the preservation of the British Empire itself. The Army and Navy Journal simply said and demonstrated that, judged by the experiences of many battles of the past, the British troops had not yet stood up to the test, but had desisted after comparatively

small losses. As the situation in South Africa is now, the British are confronted everywhere by the Boers in protected positions, and their only present hope, in some cases, of escaping from capitulation, seems to be to risk attack upon them at any cost. Eventually the unwise British strat egy which divided their columns, probably for political rather than military reasons, may be changed to a policy of concentration, but before the change can be effected grave disasters are likely to occur to their scattered forces, unless they are prepared for the stoutest possible resistance. They may be forced to fight, but the indications are that they will fight in vain if they are not ready to stand up against a far heavier percentage of losses than any they have yet endured. The history of war affords them many examples of such persistence in the face of the certainty of terrible proportionate destruction. This South African war is a hard contest, and, apparently, it cannot be won against the Boers, fight ng de'ensively, without the staying quality of the British troops being taxed to the utmost by appalling sacrifice in the field.

THE SULTAN'S BROTHER-IN-LAW. Mahmoud Pasha's Flight From Constan

tinople. A despatch from Constantinople says that the Sultan "is greatly upset" by the disappearance on Thursday, Dec. 14, of Mahmoud Pasha, the husband of his sister. Senihé Sultana. The despatch mentions incidentally that the Sultana's jewels also disappeared. Six days later Marseilles announced the arrival of Mahmoud in that city, and when he reached Paris on Dec. 21 the reporters there had the honor of interviewing the distinguished brother-in-law. He doubted the accuracy of the report that the Sultan was mentally disturbed over his departure. In fact, he had been fairly chased out of the country by his august relation, who had been led, most unjustly, to believe that his sister's husband had accepted bribes from Englishmen to promote the interests of their appeal for the Bagdad railroad concession which the Sultan gave to the Germans. "Turkey would be more prosperous." Mahmoud is reported as saying, "if my wife's brother had taken my advice instead of attributing to me mischievous designs that serve as a pretext for hunting me down. I have no antipathy against him. I merely object to his

Consumption Increasing.

From the Medical Record. the death rate from consumption in this State had increased by 330, and had increased so far in the present year that if this rate continued there would be in the year over one thousan I deaths from consumption-probably the highest death rate ever

From the Boston Herald.

Miss Louisa Cushing, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cushing of Beacon street, and Mr. Edward Houghton James of Fargo, N. D., were married at the Protestact Episcopa Church, of the Ascension, on Washington street, yesterday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. James will ma e their home in Dakota. The groom is a lawyer in Fargo. Dakota. The groom is a lawyer in l'argo.

From the Philadelphia Press.

Mrs. Youngwed-You know Uncle Pincher said he was going to send us something that would help us save our coal bills this year? Wel. it came.

Mr. Youngwed-Really? A stock of coal.
Mrs. Youngwed-No. A little arrangement New York, Jan. 4.

The British troops engaged in South Africa were not "green" and "raw," but the best and for filing bills.

Well, it came.

Mr. Youngwed—Reality? A stock of coal.

Mrs. Youngwed—Reality?

Pessimism Checked

com the Chicago Times Hero'd.

BRITISH WAR POETRY. Sunt Lacryme Rerum

From the Queen. Happy, thrice happy, are the brave, who, dying, Upheld our England's honor in the South; They, dring, daring, edd-and death defying, Shail live from mouth to mouth. But many a heart is heavy this December. Out on the Veidt, and in our North rn Isle, For it is inced to live and to remember A last farewell and smile.

Many are gone. Ah me, the well-loved faces Grow few and fewer with the dying year! Others may come, but none will fill their places, No, none can be as dear.

JOHN JERVIS BERESPORD

Confessional.

From the Westminster Gasette. Lord God, whom we besought so late, Then wouldst not suffer us forget Thy Name and our weak human state— Have patience, Lord, a little yet.

To-day no pomp of empire fills
The wintry land; amazed and awed
We watch Thy slowly-grinding Mills
Mote out to us our just reward. To day, by formen sore beass.
Dismayed we draw our destined Los.
We prayed to Thee "Lest we forges."
And, even as we prayed, forges.

With foolish, rash, vain-glorious words. And sorry self-sufficiency We boasted, girding on our swords. As those who lay their armor by. Wherefore the curse upon us lies Of warriors all unready found, Of bragg its binded to despise Their for before the trumpets sound. Humbly we call upon Thy Name, Ere soun s. nce mor the grim assault, We do concess. O Lord, with shame Our fault, our very grievous fault.

Give back our fathers' stern disdain Of idle brig and empty boast. So shall we stand a cit again And face unmoved the hostile host. The Voice of the Women of England. From the Pall M ill Gasette. We have lent to our country all (Well knowing, well counting the cost), By her colors to stand or fall. The Treasures we held to the most.

In the sigh of our wak'ning breath, In the sob of our nightly pray'r, We know, to the portals of death, Our brave ones will do or dare. And the wires of fate have in charge. The tidings for which we sicken, Whether terrors our hearts enlarge, Or fond hopes our pulses quicken.

Ah! what shall be born of to-day. Or what, then, brought forth to-morrow. Is the care that has come to stay, The anxious thought, kin to sorrow. 'Tis the link that in close-drawn band. Anear brings us each unto each, With helping hand held out to hand. In emotions too potent for speech.

If the lessons we're learning to-day
Were needed in truth and in deed.
To show us the Narrow Gateway. And lead us therein to make speed, Then grant us to lay it to heart. Let, Father, thy chastning cease. ake foul fiends of war to depart, And send us white Angels of peace!

E. C. (COUNTESS OF) COME The Gray Mother. (TO AN OLD GARLIC AIR.) From the The Spectator. [The Colonial Volunteers proceeded to the front-

Public Press.) East and South my children scatter, North and West the world they wander Yet they come back to me.
Come with their brave hearts beating
Longing to die for me. Me. the grav. old. weary mother, Throned amid the Northern waters, Where they have died for me, Died with their songs around me, Girding my shores for me. Narrow was my dwelling for them, Homes they builded o'er the ocean Yet they leave all for me. her calling. Bringing their lives for me. Far from South seas swiftly sailing. Out from under stars I know not. Come they to fight for me.
Sons of the sons I nurtured.
God keep them safe for me. Long ago their fathers saved me Died for me among the heather, Now they come back to me, Come, in their children's children, Brave of the brave for me. In the wilds and waves they slumber, Deep they slumber in the deserts, Rise they from graves to me. Yet my soul is vetled in sadness, For I see them fall and perish, Strewing the hills for me.
Claiming the world in dying.
Bought with their blood for me. Hear the gray, old Northern mother, Blessing now her dying children,— God keep ye safe for me. Christ waich ye in your sleeping. Where ye have died for me. And when God's own slogan soundeth, All the dead world's dust awaking.

Ah. will ye look for me?
Brave'y we'll stand together I and my sons with me. L. MACLEAR WATE Glencoe-Elandslaagte - Belmont - Enclin-

The Modder. From Literature. Across the streaming flood the deep ravine.
Through hurricanes of shot, through hells of fire,
To rocks where myriad markemen lurk unseen.
The steadfast legions mount, mount always
higher

Farth and her elements protect the foe; His are the obvered trench, the ambushed hill, The treacherous pit, the andden secret blow, The swift retreat—but ours the conquering will. Against that will in vain the fatal lead, Vain is the stubborn heart, brute cunning vain; Strong in the triumphs of thy dauntless dead, Advance, Imperial Race, advance and reign.

The Cry of the Broken-Hearted. From the Queen. When the Day of Battle is ended.
And the cruel auspense is past.
When the hours of anguished waiting
Are over, for all, at last,
Then those who are runnited
Will offer their praise to God—
But the had I have waited and longed for
Lies veceless under the solution.

Lies, voiceless, under the sod. There were many who climbed the hill-side
When they stormed the enemy's post,
There was many a cheer outringing
For the triumph of Fritsin's hoe.
There were many who stood, unwounded,
Unha m d, at the set of sun—
But the lad I have waited and longed for,
His day of battle was done.

Ere long—by many a fire-side
They will tell of that rallant fight.
They will praise, those warrior heroes.
The power of Britain's might.
They will sneak—wit awestruck voices—
Of their comrades among the slain—
But the lad I have waited and longed for
Will speak to me never again.

You are dead for your Queen and your country!
You are dead in your honor and pride!
You are dead that your brother soldiers
Might rise with the triumph-tice!
You have paid the price of their glory.
As a soldier would wan to do— My heart's just breaking for you!

> The Girl I Let' Be'ind Me From the Westminster Gapette.

We p'raded out at the stroke o' four.
But the girls was there two hours before,
We slumg along thro mud so' mist.
Each with 'is love clung close to 'is wrist;
The kiddles' torches paled the moon.
An' my girl called 'r' the roarin' toon,
Tars rara-rara.
"The girl I let' be'ind me."

Er eyes wos red, but 'er smile wos brave, She d brort a tup'ny flag to wave: She perched it up in 'er sailor 'at, An' she led the cheerin' smart an' pat, As the band burst out with a suddin chirl, While ev ry trooper kissed 'is girl,—is-ra-rar-rare,.

"The girl I lef' be'ind me."

She's ard at work in a garrit, I guess, Stitchin' like fun at a big swell's dress. An 'mid the whitr of 'er old machine. I'll back she'll fancy th' roar, between When the reg'ment leaps in the fosmen An then she'll breathe a tiny pray'r. Ta-ra-rara-pra.

An' if as we carry the 'eights, I fall, With the girlling smoke f'ra so dier's pail, When we rish the bush an' the artful trench, Or ford the river's chilly drench, You'll find in the breast o' me bloomin' shire The face, with a frame o' ribbin begirt. O' th' girl I lef' be'ind me.